A Brief Repreſentation OF THE PROTESTANT CAUSE IN GERMANY.

In what caſe it hath been, ſince the Peace of MUNSTER; and how it now ſtands.

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A BRIEF REPRESENTATION OF THE Proteſtant Cauſe in *Germany*.

In what caſe it hath been, ſince the Peace of MUNSTER; and how it now ſtands.

THe Juſtice of the laſt civil warrs in *Germany*, which were compoſed at the Peace concluded in *Munſter* and *Oſnabrugge* in the year 1648. was grounded upon this. That the Proteſtants were neceſſitated to enter into a league or mutual union together, for the maintaining of their rights and priviledges in the Empire, againſt the infractions thereof, and manifold diſturbances of their profeſſion, which contrary to former agreements at Imperial *Dyets*. did befall unto them in many places by the Popiſh and Jeſuites practices, whereof they could obtain no redreſs by any peaceable Treaties: Therefore finding that there was a deſign formed in the *Conclave*, and by the houſe of *Auſtria*, to be put in execution, tending by little and little to wear out and deprive them of their liberties; they formed an union among themſelvs, to ſtand upon the defence of their rights, and to oppoſe the power of the houſe of *Auſtria*, by whoſe means, both in *Germany* and in *Bohemia*, the Jeſuites did drive the deſign of rooting out Proteſtants. The head of this union (who by his place was bound to appear in it) was the *Elector Palatine*: but he being a ſoft man, of no experience in war, and beſet in his Counſels and enterpriſes with ſuch as did betray him, the cauſe was ſoon over-

thrown; and by his overthrow, the intended persecution against Protestants to root them out, what by power, and what by policy, was openly carried on by the house of *Austria*; which moved the King of *Denmark* Christian the IV. and after him the King of *Sweden*, to come upon the Stage: the *Dane* was soon overthrown, but God gave such success unto the *Swedes*, to the *Landgrave* of *Hessen* their associate, and to the *French*; (who joined with them to ballance the power of *Austria*, after the Elector of *Saxony* had made his peace at *Prague* with the Emperour, and deserted the Protestant interest): that from the death of King *Gustavus*, they continued the war with various successes till the year 1648. at which time the *Swedish* being masters in *Bohemia*, and the Emperour brought so low, that he saw little hopes to recover his strength without a Peace, he yielded to the conditions which the Protestants and the French stood upon. The Swedish stood upon their satisfaction and to keep a foot in the Empire, to be able upon all occasions to secure or help the Protestant partie; And the Protestant Princes they stood upon the setling of all things and of themselves in their former rights and possessions, as before the war, and chiefly upon this point the reformed party and the *Landgrave* of *Hessen*, who headed them stood, that thence forward the reformed Protestants (*alias* called Calvinists) should have equall freedom and liberty of conscience, for the exercise of their profession in the Empire, with the Papists and Lutherans. This condition being obtained, and a way determined to give the agrieved parties in point of dammage further satisfaction, Armies were dismissed, a new convention of States was held at *Nurenberg*, to settle the remaining matters within the Empire, which at *Munster* and *Osnabrugge* could not well be handled, by reason of the Treatie with forraign States, and afterward a *Dyet* was called at *Ratisbon*, to confirm all what formerly had been treated on and concluded, and to put the remainder of grievances in a way to be rectified: To which effect at the dissolution or rather adjournment of the imperiall *Dyet* at *Ratisbon*, a Committee of Deputies from all the States of the Empire, of equall number of both parties, (that is, so many of the Protestants as of the Popish party) were named to meet at *Franckford*, and prepare (by way of disquiry of rights) the mat-

matters then remaining undecided, that at the next Session of the *Dyet* there might be a full decision and determination of them, but before these Delegates did meet, the Elector of *Mentz* did broach a new quarrell with the Elector Palatine, tending to abridge him of much of his right, and to make him inconsiderable to the Protestant party; But the King of *Sweden* his cousin (for he is a younger Brothers son of the house *Palatine*) and the *Landgrave* of *Hessen* his Brother in law, did appear for him so far, that the Emperor & the Elector of *Mentz* fearing a new breach on his behalfe, did leave him unmolested. Soon after the composure of this quarrell, the Committee of imperiall Deputies, met according to the appointment of the last *Dyet* at *Ratisbon*, and they have continued at *Franckford*, debating and disputing one with another, concerning their respective rights, in the several cases, which remained undetermined. This meeting of Deputies hath agitated matters in the years 1655——56——57. till these new affairs are come into consideration, which the King of *Sweden* his war with *Poland* hath occasioned: for from that time that he went into *Poland* and prospered there, the Deputies although they did not dissolve their meeting, yet did in a manner alter the course of their treating one with another, as looking much upon the event of that war, till the death of the late Emperour, hath altered the Scene, and a *Dyet* for the election of a new Emperour hath been called.

The King of *Swedens* war with *Poland*, did alarm the Popish party in *Germany*, and the house of *Austria* extreamly: and did terrifie the States of the *Low-Countries*, lest if he should be master of the *Baltick Sea*, their Trade should be thenceforward under his power, with whom they had no friendly correspondence, by reason of some reciprocally conceived injuries, for which they could not trust him. This moved those of *Holland* who are the chief traders in those Seas, to stir up enemies against him, and openly to appear for, and correspond with *Dantzick* to oppose him: and it is known to the Swedish, that they have dealt underhand with the *Moscovite*, with the *Polish* King, with the *Austrians*, and above board with the King of *Denmark*, to combine against him; by which means after that he had conquered *Poland*, his forces were distracted, first to oppose the *Moscovite* in

Livonia, who beſieged *Riga*; and afterward to put himſelf in a defenſive poſture againſt the *Auſtrians*, who came to the aſſiſtance of the King of *Poland*; and laſtly, to retire from *Poland* into *Germany*, to oppoſe the *Daniſh* forces, who had invaded his Territories of *Bremen*. Being come into *Germany* upon this deſign, he did conquer from the King of *Denmark* the laſt Summer all *Holſtein* and *Jutland*, and although by theſe conqueſts he was able to live in his quarters in the Winter: yet his enemies being round about him on all hands, and he having neither money, nor convenient places to recruit his Army, it was expected, that in the Spring the Combination of his enemies who compaſſed him about, would have ſwallowed him up: but God was pleaſed to appear for him, and direct him in a way to eſcape and overcome theſe difficulties: For in *January* laſt, he formed his deſign to aſſault the other Territories of the *Daniſh* King; namely the Iſlands which lye between *Germany* and the Continent of *Sweden*, and to that effect had prepared his men to march over into *Fuenen*, either by a bridge of Shipps if the Sea were not frozen ſo as to bear: or over the Ice, if it ſhould be ſtrong enough: having then notice gotten, that towards the latter end of *January* the Ice did bear, he took of horſe and foot, not above 6 or 7 thouſand, and therewith did march over the Sea into *Funen*, where the *Daniſh* King had placed his chief forces to defend the place. And although ſome dangerous and dreadfull accidents did befal him in that his march over the Sea, yet he went on and fought the *Daniſh* forces more in number then he had with him, which on firm land ſtood in a readineſſe to receive him, and beat them, took the chief Commanders priſoners, and the ſpoil of the Iſland, which is one of the richeſt that belongs to that Kingdom. Having made himſelf Maſter of that Iſland, he went forward to the next Iſland, over the Sea, called *Langland*, where he found a body of 500 men to reſiſt him, but being charged, they were inſtantly defeated, ſo he went from thence to the next called *Laland*, and from thence to *Falſter*, and from *Falſter* to *Zealand*, the froſt ſtill continuing to make a bridge for him in all theſe marches. And from the time he came into *Funen*, till he entred *Zealand*, he ſpent onely five or ſix days. In *Zealand* (where the King of *Denmark* was at *Coppenhagen*) M. *Medows*, the publick Miniſter of

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the State, ſent from thence to reſide with the King of *Denmark*) came to him, and deſired him to admit the King of *Denmark* to a Treatie, this he condeſcended unto, and by the interpoſition of M *Medows* and of the French *Ambaſſadour* (for he would not admit the Hollands *Ambaſſadour* to be a Mediator) the peace was concluded about the 20 of *February*, after twelve days treaty. The conditions are, that he reſtoreth to the King of *Denmark* all what he had taken from him in *Germany*, namely *Holſtein*, and *Jutland*, and the Iſlands of *Fuenen*, *Langland*, *Laland*, *Falſter* and *Zealand*; and in lieu thereof the King of *Denmark* quitts unto him all his rights in the Provinces of *Haland* and *Schonen*, and of *Blieken*, which are the Continent of *Sweden*, on the North ſide of the Sound; and doth moreover ſurrender unto him the Iſland of *Bornholm*, and the Lordſhips of *Bahuſen*, and of *Drumben* in *Norway*, which lye moſt convenient to cauſe the Trade of *Sweden* to flouriſh. Some other conditions there are, but leſſe conſiderable. The peace being concluded and ratified by both Kings, the King of *Denmark* feaſted the King of *Sweden* for certain days, and at ſeverall times both Kings were together alone, for the ſpace of two or three hours at a time, whereby it is conceived that they have contracted a nearer and ſtricter alliance together, then the Publick Treatie can mention. This being done, the King of *Sweden* went into his own Country; and hath convocated the States of his Kingdom at *Gottenborg*, to diſpoſe of his affairs with their advice, and to take up further reſolutions in time to come.

This unexpected and miraculous ſucceſſe of the *Swediſh* Kings enterpriſe, hath diſappointed all the Counſels and plots of his adverſaries againſt him, for which he is obliged to none but unto God alone: and from hence his friends have juſt cauſe to gather, that God hath raiſed him out of his ſtraits, and redoubled his ſtrength to make further uſe of him towards the advancement of the common cauſe of Proteſtants, in whoſe behalf he concluded the peace at *Munſter*, and which he thinks himſelf in conſcience and honour obliged to ſee maintained for the Proteſtant intereſt; *tanquam altera pars pactſcens*, as in a letter of his to the Emperour, he did expreſſe himſelf. So that it ſeems the Proteſtant cauſe in *Germany* will find in him a Protector of ſo much

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courage and resolution, and conduct, as any that could be expected or desired: And it is known to all that know him, that he is earnestly bent to take away the differences, and advance the reconcilement of Protestants within themselves: and that he makes no difference between *Lutherans* (as they are called) and *Calvinists*, but makes use of both a like, according to their abilities, as he findes them fitted for imployment in forreign affairs: for within the Kingdom of *Sweden*, no forreigners, and none but *Lutherans*, are to be admitted to the civill charges of trust; others are imployed in military charges, both there and elswhere, according to their deserts.

What his present posture doth work upon the minds of his enemies, is not difficult to be seen: and what this advantage which he hath gotten against his secret and open adversaries, may produce at this juncture of time in the Empire, time will shew: In the mean time, it is to be wished, that all Protestants would unite to maintain with one consent a true Gospel-Interest; in the prosecution of which, they may confidently expect a singular blessing from God, in all other enterprises, and without which there is no hope, that any thing will prosper, which will be undertaken: And whosoever doth pretend to the profession of the Gospel, and doth not in his place what he can, towards the the healing of the breaches of Protestants by spirituall means in a Gospel-way; let his pretences be what they will, he will be found at the end, but an unprofitable servant to his Master, and one that hath deserted his cause, when it stood most in need of assistance, & when it was most seasonable to give it, which is now at this juncture of time, if ever.

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